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Smallburgh Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year 1948



SECTION A.

Area of District in acres	...	...	...	70,017
Population (1931 Census)	...	...	...	15,690
Population 1948 (estimated)	...	...	...	16,960
Structurally separate dwellings (1931) Census—Occupied	...	...	...	4,376
		Unoccupied	...	433
Rateable value	...	...	...	£64,044
Estimated Penny Rate	...	...	...	£262

LIVE BIRTHS

	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	
Legitimate	271	132	139	
Illegitimate	14	6	8	
	285	138	147	

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 16.8

STILL BIRTHS

	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	
Legitimate	5	—	5	
Illegitimate	1	—	1	
	6	—	6	

STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 total births, 20.6

" " " per 1,000 population, 0.35

PREMATURE BIRTHS : 4

Died within 1st week—Nil Died within 1st month—Nil

DEATHS

	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	
	191	111	80	

DEATH RATE per 1,000 of estimated resident population—11.26

Deaths from PUERPERAL SEPSIS—Nil

Deaths from other Maternal Causes—Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE—

	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	
Legitimate	10	8	2	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 39

Deaths from Measles (all ages) —

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 2

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 1

SECTION B.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE DISTRICT.

D. G. SHIELDS, M.B.E., M.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Medical Officer of Health

A. L. TAUNTON, C.R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector

A. E. FORD, Cert. R.S.I., Assistant Sanitary Inspector

LABORATORY FACILITIES. E.P.H. Laboratory, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich

AMBULANCES ARE OBTAINED from the British Red Cross Society at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, North Walsham, Martham and Great Yarmouth Hospitals.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

- (a) District Nurses of Norfolk Nursing Federation
- (b) Private hire in Infectious Diseases

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. None in District.

HOSPITALS.

Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Jenny Lind Hospital for Children, Great Yarmouth and North Walsham Cottage Hospitals all take cases from the area. Infectious cases for which isolation is considered necessary are admitted to the County Isolation Hospital at Dereham. The Coltishall Nursing Home takes a small number of Maternity cases from the District.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

			Total	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Dysentery	...	...	2	—	—
Ophthalmia	...	...	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	...	...	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	...	...	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	10	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	122	5	2
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—
Smallpox	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	215	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	15	—	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	—	—	—
Jaundice	...	...	8	—	—
Malaria	...	...	1	—	—
C.S. Meningitis	...	...	1	1	—
Erysipelas	...	...	2	—	—
Scarlatina	...	...	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis	...	...	1	1	—
Polio-encephalitis	...	...	1	—	—
			380	7	5

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Up to July 1948 a further 156 children were immunised against Diphtheria under the Council's scheme, 140 of these being children under the age of five. Secondary or reinforcing injections totalled fourteen.

I am happy to be able to report for the second year in succession no case of diphtheria has been notified in the area.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for certain Infectious diseases in the Year 1948. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's. and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Administrative County.
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.				
BIRTHS—				
Live Births	17.9 (a)	20.0	19.2	20.1
Still „	0.42 (a)	0.52	0.43	0.39
DEATHS—				
All Causes	10.8	11.6	10.7	11.6
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Tuberculosis	0.51	0.59	0.46	0.63
Influenza	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.02
Small-pox	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.41	0.38	0.36	0.54
NOTIFICATIONS (corrected)—				
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet Fever	1.73	1.90	1.82	1.37
Whooping Cough	3.42	3.51	3.31	3.13
Diphtheria	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.10
Erysipelas	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22
Small-pox	—	—	—	—
Measles	9.34	9.75	8.84	9.17
Pneumonia	0.73	0.84	0.60	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04
Acute Polioencephalitis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
DEATHS				
All causes under 1 year of age	34 (b)	39	32	31
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	3.3	4.5	2.1	2.4
NOTIFICATIONS (corrected)—				
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	6.89	8.90	4.71	7.34 (c)
MATERNAL MORTALITY—England and Wales				
		Rates per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births		
			Rates per million Women aged 15-44	
140 Abortion with Sepsis	...	0.11	9	
141 Abortion without Sepsis	...	0.05	4	
147 Puerperal Infections	...	0.13		
142-146, 148-150 other Maternal causes	...	0.73		

(a) Rates per 1,000 total population

(b) Per 1,000 related Births

(c) In London Puerperal Fever alone was 0.61

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Total	Male	Female
Typhoid Fever	...	—	—
Cerebrospinal Fever	...	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	2	2
Diphtheria	...	—	—
Tuberculosis of resp system	...	9	4
Tuberculosis (other forms)	...	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	...	—	—
Influenza	...	—	—
Measles	...	—	—
Ac. Polio-myelitis	...	—	—
Ac. Inf. enceph.	...	—	—
Cancer	...	39	23
Diabetes	...	1	—
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	20	10
Heart Diseases	...	65	39
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	6	4
Bronchitis	...	5	4
Pneumonia	...	3	—
Other resp. Diseases	...	2	2
Peptic Ulcer	...	—	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	1	—
Appendicitis	...	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	...	3	1
Nephritis	...	2	2
Puerperal Sepsis	...	—	—
Other Puerperal Diseases	...	—	—
Prematurity	...	—	—
Congenital malformations, birth injury, infantile diseases	...	7	6
Suicide	...	—	—
Road Traffic Accidents	...	2	2
Other violent causes	...	1	1
Other defined diseases	...	23	11
All causes	...	191	111
			80

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES DURING 1948

Aged	under	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals
		Males	Females	Males	Females	
”	1	...	...	...	...	...
”	1 to 5	...	1	...	1	...
”	5 to 15	...	...	3	3	...
”	15 to 25	2	1	...	3	...
”	25 to 35	3	1	...	5	...
”	35 to 45	1	2	...	3	...
”	45 to 55	2	...	...	2	...
”	55 to 65	...	...	...	...	...
”	65 and over	...	...	...	...	...
Totals		8	5	...	4	17

DEATHS DURING 1948

Aged	under	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals
		Males	Females	Males	Females	
”	1	...	...	...	...	...
”	1 to 5	...	...	...	...	...
”	5 to 15	...	...	...	...	...
”	15 to 25	...	...	...	...	...
”	25 to 35	...	...	1	...	1
”	35 to 45	...	...	1	...	1
”	45 to 55	...	...	...	...	...
”	55 to 65	...	...	...	...	...
”	65 and over	...	1	...	...	1
Totals		1	2	...	...	3

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The total number of Cowkeepers, Dairymen and Retailers is ... 197
Inspections were as follows :

Cowkeepers premises	...	...	...	413
Dairymen	...	...	...	535
Retailers (premises and rounds)	...	...	...	224

MILK (Special Designations) ORDERS, 1936-46

Number of "T.T." producers	...	...	...	46
Number of "Accredited" producers	...	...	...	20

MILK SAMPLING.

All milk sampling of "T.T." and "Accredited" producers has been carried out by the Norfolk County Council during 1948.

Note : It is of course unsatisfactory that only 66 producers of designated supplies are listed, but this number produces over one half of the total supply from this area. One of the main reasons that many other producers cannot obtain licences is that their premises have been adapted from barns, bullock-lodges, and the like, and, unless structural alterations were carried out, their premises could not be brought up to a reasonable standard. Generally speaking the cows are of good quality and well looked after, and a tremendous improvement on pre-war years. Milking standards are improving, although the mere fact of changing over from hand to machine does not always give results, as many producers have found to their cost. It has been noticed that a history of failing samples can be traced to poor sterilization.

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED UNDER THE TUBERCULOSIS ORDER OF 1938

Two animals were slaughtered under this Order during 1948, and, in each case, tuberculosis was confirmed.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The number of slaughterhouses in use in the district is as follows :

Registered	...	...	11
Licensed	...	...	7

All slaughtering for this area is still carried out at Great Yarmouth, and only pigs—killed under licence issued by the Ministry of Food, and casualties, are dealt with.
All the premises are clean, in good structural condition, and regularly inspected.

The number of licensed slaughtermen is 15.

BUTCHERS SHOPS.

The number of butchers shops is 22.

Owing to restrictions on supplies most of these shops are closed on three days each week, and this allows of thorough cleansing and renovation, and a good standard of cleanliness. I award full marks in each case.

BAKEHOUSES.

The number of bakehouses in the area is 9.

There are no underground bakehouses.

Two written notices were served on occupiers to cleanse their premises, and the required work was duly carried out, but it has been noticed that whereas some premises always look clean and tidy, others seem grubby and uninviting.

HEALTH OF PERSONS ENGAGED IN HANDLING FOODS.

This is a matter requiring attention. One often finds that the person handling milk, butter or other food, has a bad cold or some slight skin disease, and it is surely wrong that these people should be engaged in the retail distribution of food.

CONDEMNED FOOTSTUFFS.

Meat :	118lbs. Beef (home killed)	Fish -	6 stones of Sea Bream fillets
	23½lbs. „ (imported)		½ stone of Plaice
	6½lbs. Beef Sausage Meat		
Cereals, etc. :	197 packets of Corn Flakes		
	187 „ Wheat Flakes		
	1272 „ Pudding Powder		

Tinned Foods :

No. of tins		No. of tins	
3	...	Apricots	59
62	...	Beans	4
3	...	Beetroot	121
3	...	Blackberries	35
9	...	Broth (Ulster)	51
3	...	„ (Scotch)	2
11	...	Carrots	45
3	...	Cherries	4
12	...	Cod Roes	6
1	...	Corned Beef	16
6	...	Crab Paste	24
3	...	Dried Egg	5
3	...	Fish Flakes	30
7	...	French Cheese	6
2	...	Fruit Cocktail	6
3	...	„ Salad	45
24	...	Grape Fruit	2
2	...	„ Nuts	14
3	...	Irish Stew	3
2	...	Jam	2
3	...	Macedoines	

Faulty canning was found to be responsible in most cases for these tinned foods being unfit for consumption.

GENERAL.

WATER SUPPLIES.

- (i) We are fortunate in being part of an area where the supplies have been adequate during the year. At the same time it must be noted that in the main our supplies are drawn from shallow wells, and that apart from the possibility of surface pollution, many of these shallow wells show signs of decreasing supplies. Another drought year may cause difficulties, and I therefore advise the Council to press forward their various schemes of piped water supplies.
 - (a) Quality—This is dealt with in the preceding paragraph and I have nothing to add except to state that shallow wells are always dangerous.
 - (b) Quantity—This has been sufficient, and we have not found it necessary to transport supplies to any part of the area.
- (ii) The Parish of Hoveton and the Parish of Horning are supplied by the Norwich Corporation waterworks, and the Analyst's reports show this supply to be of good quality. I am pleased to say that more use is being made of these supplies, and look forward to the time when 100% of the properties will be connected to the mains.
The Parish of Stalham is supplied from the Stalham bore, and the Analyst reports this to be of excellent quality and in all respects suitable for a public supply. Here again I trust that more properties will be connected to the mains, especially when the new sewerage scheme is in operation

(iii) No reports have been received of contamination by lead.

(iv) 50 samples of water used for domestic supplies were submitted to the Public Analyst during the year, and the reports received were as follows:—

Approved supplies	...	32
Fair or poor	...	10
Unfit supplies	...	8

In all cases where the supply was certified unfit the wells were closed and the pumps—if any, removed.

(v) Particulars of the number of dwelling-houses and the number of the population supplied from public service mains:—

Parish of Hoveton—Estimated number of houses	...	434
Number of houses having direct supply into the house	...	116
Estimated number of persons supplied	...	365
Number of dwellings supplied by means of stand pipes	...	40
Estimated number of persons supplied	...	127

In addition the following are supplied from the mains:—

(a) Business premises, meter supply	...	10
(b) Lock-up shops and offices, not metered	...	3
(c) Supplies to farm land, meter supply	...	8
(d) " to school "	...	1

Parish of Horning—Estimated number of houses	...	278
Number of houses having direct supply into the house	...	62
Estimated number of persons supplied	...	139
Number of houses supplied by means of stand pipes	...	nil
Estimated number of persons supplied	...	nil

In addition the following are supplied from the mains:—

(a) Business premises, meter supply	...	5
(b) Supplies to farm lands, meter supply	...	1
(c) " to school, " "	...	1

Concerning these two Parishes, the Engineer and Manager to the Norwich Corporation also gives the following particulars:—

	Hoveton	Horning
No. of houses supplied where baths are fixed	99	32
" " " where W.C.s are fixed	90	37
" " " where there are more than one W.C.	16	8
" " " where there is no W.C.	26	25

Parish of Stalham—Estimated number of houses	...	397
Number of houses having direct supply into the house	...	224
Estimated number of persons supplied	...	674
Number of houses supplied by means of stand pipes	...	17
Estimated number of persons supplied	...	63

HOUSING.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	...	835
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	1266
(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations	...	...	456
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	1370
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	57
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	368

Note—As the Council are aware, I have—on their instructions, to notify each owner of 'intention to enter and inspect' each dwelling, and this causes a certain amount of delay and accounts for the small number of dwellings inspected and recorded.

Concerning the paragraph (4) above, I would wish to mention that this includes a total of 269 dwellings having minor defects only.

It may also be interesting to note that in the Parish of Soley, with a total of 60 working class dwellings, 7 were found to be in all respects fit, 38 required minor repairs or reconditioning, and 11 dwellings were considered to be unfit for further occupation.

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. 75

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

Proceedings under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936

Notices that question of demolition would be considered	...	11
Demolition Orders made	...	4
Undertakings accepted	...	3
Notices to execute works	...	4

Proceedings under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936

Notice of the Council's intention to carry out repairs in default of the owner (This work is in progress)	...	1
Number of dwelling houses demolished during the year where Demolition Orders were in force	...	11
Other dwellings demolished	...	1

The following housing particulars are given by the Housing Manager.

REQUISITIONING.

Number of properties under requisition at 31/12/48	...	38
" " occupied at 31/12/48	...	33
" " requisitioned during 1948	...	nil
" " released during 1948	...	2

TEMPORARY HOUSING.

Number of properties occupied on the Ludham Airfield Estate	..	68
Number of properties demolished on this estate during the year	..	1
Number of properties occupied on the Worstead Park military camp		23
Number of properties occupied on the Horning White Lodge Estate (R.A.F.)	..	9
Number of properties occupied on the Petersfield Estate (R.A.F.)	..	10

PERMANENT HOUSING.

The Council owns a total of 761 dwellings, as under:

1919 (Assisted Scheme)	...	...	...	48
1923 Acts	..	..	..	6
1924 Acts	..	..	..	412
1931 (Rural Authorities) Act	..	..	..	28
Slum Clearance	..	..	..	58
1936 Act (Overcrowding)	..	..	..	34
1938 Act (Overcrowding and Slum Clearance) (Accommodation of members of Agr. Pop.)	..	..	..	3
Not subsidised	..	..	..	19
1946 Act	..	..	..	77
				76

In addition to the above, the following were completed and occupied during the year:—

	Traditional Houses	Airey Houses	Old People's Bungalows
Horning	8	—	4
Happisburgh	6	—	4
Paston	4	—	—
Scotow	10	4	—
Felmingham	2	—	—
Swanton Abbot	10	—	—
Dilham	6	—	—
Sea Palling	6	—	—
Bacton	12	—	—

SCAVENGING.

The Council carry out scavenging by direct labour in the Parishes of Hoveton, Ludham and Stalham, using mechanical vehicles. Pail closets are emptied twice weekly and house refuse is collected once weekly. In these Parishes, cesspools are emptied twice during the year free, but in other parishes a charge is made for the service. Dumps of tins and other house refuse are cleared without charge in any part of the area.

There is no doubt that scavenging schemes should be provided for other parishes in the area, and the Council is considering this matter, but, owing to the cost of labour and transport, it is difficult to see how the total cost can be kept within reasonable limits.

Concerning the disposal of house refuse, it appears that the only sanitary method is by incineration, and I strongly advise the Council to consider the erection of a modern incinerator.

RATS & MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

Infestation Order, S.R. & O., No. 680, 1943

This work is being properly carried out throughout the area, and, in my opinion, there is a slight improvement on the previous year. Unfortunately many of the pits used for disposing of house refuse do offer breeding grounds for these pests, and a continual watch has to be kept on these dumps.

The rat catcher carried out surveys of the whole area during the year, and spent his whole time on the work—with the exception of holiday and sick periods, a total of 4 weeks.

Each parish was separately dealt with during these surveys, and complaints—to the number of 13, were investigated and dealt with.

Particulars of the year's work are as follows :—

Total number of properties inspected for infestation	...	609
Properties found to be infested	...	532
Number of pre-baits laid	...	20055
Number of poison baits laid	...	7266
Dead rats found and destroyed	...	1994
,, mice	...	289

Payments received for the service of the rat-catcher—£94 - 15 - 3

Concerning this matter I think the Council should be informed that, as and from the 31st March 1950 the Local Authority may be directly responsible for the destruction of rats and mice throughout the whole of their district, including agricultural properties and land.

NUISANCES.

A total of 40 nuisances were reported during the year and were as under :—

Defective house drainage	...	6
,, road drainage	...	2
,, septic tank	...	1
,, or overflowing cesspools	...	2
,, tiled roofs	...	2
,, thatched roofs	...	1
,, chimneys	...	4
,, pail closets	...	5
Drainage discharging into river	...	1
,, " " " watercourse	...	1
,, " " " open drain	...	1
,, " " " road ditches	...	2
Dumping of nightsoil on private estate	...	1
Parish pond causing a nuisance	...	1
Nuisance from refuse on camping ground	...	1
,, " road ditch	...	1
,, " refuse dumps	...	4
Verminous dwellings	...	3
Pig keeping	...	1

All these complaints were thoroughly investigated, and the nuisances abated, with the exception of that caused by the parish pond—and this is now being dealt with by the Parish Council concerned.

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE.

The Council has now received approval for their proposed sewerage scheme in the Parish of Stalham, and it is hoped to commence this work early in 1949.

The possibility of a sewerage scheme for Hoveton—where there is already a piped water supply, is being considered in conjunction with the adjoining Rural District of St. Faiths and Aylsham, as it appears that a joint scheme for two or more parishes is feasible.

The new housing programme has caused difficulty inasmuch as the houses now being erected have W.C.s, baths, etc., and the resulting drainage has to be adequately dealt with. This has not proved an easy matter to solve, but, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, small sewerage schemes are being prepared and should give satisfaction. However this becomes a very costly matter when provided for say 6 to 8 dwellings, and I would like the Council to ascertain if other cottages—in private ownership, could not be given facilities to join in these schemes, so that (a) other dwellings could enjoy these amenities, and (b) the cost per dwelling would be more reasonable.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

There are 101 factories in the area, comprising the following different trades or businesses.

Bakehouses	...	9	General engineering	...	1
Blacksmiths (mechanical)	...	2	Grain cleaning	...	1
Boat building	...	20	Motor engineering	...	2
Brewery	...	1	Motor haulage	...	4
Butchers (slaughterhouses)	...	18	Electrical depot	...	1
Builders	...	10	Plumbers and well sinkers	...	1
Cycle brazier	...	1	Sailmakers	...	1
Engineers (agricultural)	...	1	Stonemasons	...	1
Flour mills	...	8	Timber sawmills	...	3
Fruit grading machinery	...	2	Wicker fencing makers	...	1
Garages	...	13			

Part 1 of the Act

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities...	76	193	1	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	15	48	1	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	3	6	Nil	Nil
TOTAL ...	94	247	2	Nil

2—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	4	...	...	...
Overcrowding (S.2)	1	1	...	...	...
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	2	2	...	...	...
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	...	...	...
(c) Not separate for sexes ...					
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
TOTAL ...	8	8	...	...	...

† Electrical Stations [Section 103(1)], Institutions. (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108)

Once again I should like to record my appreciation of the excellent work carried out by the Officers of the Public Health Staff during the year 1948.

D. G. SHIELDS,
Medical Officer of Health.

A. L. TAUNTON,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
SMALLBURGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

May 1949